

NURSING ASSISTANT ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

OPEN SESSION

December 8, 2009

The Open Session of the Nursing Assistant Advisory Board was called to order at 9:01 a.m. on the above date in Room 104, Rhode Island Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Law, so called, and other applicable sections of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island as amended.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jamie A. Beauregard

Kathleen A. Butterfield

Michele Carignan

Teresa Chopoorian

Alice Frezza

Lourdes V. Pichardo

Donna M. Policastro

Irene A. Qi

Laurie Salum

Beverly A. St. Onge

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

David P. Jasinski

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Donna Valletta, Board Administrator

Charles Alexandre, RN, MSN, Chief

Attorney Gregory Madoian, Legal Counsel

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Donna Valletta called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was established at this time.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF November 10, 2009

Donna Valletta presented the Minutes of the Open Session of November 10, 2009. On motion of Donna Policastro, seconded by Alice Frezza, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as presented.

3. BOARD ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Pearson VUE has corrected the mailing address for Hope Nursing Home Care LLC., to ensure appropriate distribution of quarterly training program reports. Donna Valletta will request a change in address for Alpine Nursing Home to ensure quarterly reports are received in a timely manner.

Donna Valletta confirmed with Pearson VUE that its contract with the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) does not include the review and approval of the employment of program instructors, however, it strongly discourages instructor's testing those students who have completed their nursing assistant training program. CCRI has confirmed that they have mechanisms in place to ensure that this does not occur. Michele Carignan confirmed that a process is in place.

Donna informed the Nursing Assistant Advisory Board (Board) that there has not been a contract with the Department of Education (DOE) for many years. As a result, there isn't detailed information to compare its training program review criteria and requirements. The DOE becomes involved when the training program anticipates enrollment of more than 100 students and/or when the program cost is more than \$1,000.

Since home health agency policies regarding access by Nursing Assistant staff to client's cash and/or credit cards vary, the Board will

need to review an agency policy when reviewing complaints.

Donna Valletta informed the Board that the law stipulates that a revocation is for five years. The Board discussed the appropriate timeframe for suspensions and agreed on three years. This will ensure consistent timeframes for disciplinary actions against Nursing Assistants and Medication Aides.

Board members expressed concerns with the availability of courses for Medication Aides to complete for compliance with Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements. Donna Policastro advised the Board that continuing education courses are available through the Rhode Island State Nurses Association (RISNA) website, risnarn.org. An ethics approved course will be available in January 2010.

Charles Alexandre and Gregory Madoian introduced themselves and briefly explained their respective roles and responsibilities to the Board.

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

4. ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws for discussion of job performance, character, physical or mental health

of applicants for licensure and licensees and for discussion of investigatory proceedings relating to misconduct by applicants licensure and licensees, and investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct. On motion of Alice Frezza, seconded by Beverly St. Onge, the Open Session was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Valletta

Board Administrator